

The Daily Mail

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) at 613 Queen Street, Fredericton, by THE MAIL PRINTING COMPANY.

Telephone No. 1111 and 1112

Fredericton, N. B., May 28, 1914.

A LABOR LEADER'S OPINION

"I want to go on record as being against this proposition," declared Alphonse Verville, the member for Mainseigneur, in speaking last week in the Commons on Premier Borden's proposal to give to Mackenzie & Mann a further bond guarantee of \$45,000,000. For a term of years Mr. Verville held office as president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress. Today he sits in Parliament as a Labor member.

In his speech of last week Mr. Verville was clear-cut and emphatic on two points. He strongly opposed the plan to pledge the country's credit further for the benefit of Mackenzie and Mann and he was strongly in favor of public ownership of Canadian railways.

"I have heard, as has every member of the House," he said, "that Mackenzie and Mann are worth millions of dollars. If there is no reason than another why I object to Mackenzie and Mann coming to this House it is because they are members of this get-rich-quick society. They are responsible for the much talked of coal strike on Vancouver Island. It has not been mentioned in this House before but every member knows that this famous strike was started in the mines of Mackenzie & Mann. If they are so rich why could they not grant the reasonable demand of the men? Why have they not shown some justice in that matter?"

"Every time Mackenzie and Mann come before this house it seems to me that they have more friends than any other company. On two occasions I have heard gentlemen in this House state that they have been indirectly threatened by Mackenzie and Mann. What power is behind their threats? Is it the mighty power of their money or something else?"

Mr. Verville pointed out further that since Canada would be liable for the \$45,000,000 represented by the proposed guarantee the passage of the government's proposal was equivalent to placing a liability or mortgage upon every citizen of the Dominion. In return for this what are the people to receive? They are to become minority shareholders in a company controlled by Mackenzie and Mann. Labor's representative did not mince words in dealing with this phase of the case.

"It has been said," Hansard reports him as saying, "that we are going into partnership with Mackenzie and Mann. I for one, do not want to go into partnership with those gentlemen because if they were absolutely honest, I believe they would have put their own fortunes into the enterprise. We are told also that we are going to have forty per cent. of the common stock of this company. I have read enough of trust and mergers and over-capitalization to know how much that is worth. . . . I would favor even a greater guarantee than this \$45,000,000 providing we get control of the company. If it is necessary, let us eliminate altogether Mackenzie & Mann. I want to go on record as being opposed to this proposition. I do not want to be charged by the people of this country with having gone into partnership with Mackenzie and Mann. I would rather go into partnership with anybody else than these gentlemen."

Mr. Verville a Labor representative a man whose whole life has been one of service to the cause of labor opposes the Government's plan to give \$45,000,000 to two men who have already grown enormously rich out of the construction of a railway into which they have put none of their own money. He is opposed, and rightly opposed to making this country the junior partner in the firm of Mackenzie, Mann and Canada—to having the Dominion put up more money to add further to the wealth of men who have become multi-millionaires through their handling of Canadian affairs. Other Labor leaders and several Labor organizations have protested against this \$45,000,000 deal. Resolutions of protest have been passed by Labor

bodies in different cities.

But these protests from the workmen give Mackenzie and Mann no concern. They know that the Borden Government will pay little heed to the views of Labor. It is Mackenzie and Mann and the corporation interests which have the ear of the Premier and his colleagues.

WORKING FOR PEACE

One of the most significant developments in the political situation in the Old Country is the stand taken by the London Times which startled Unionists the other day by declaring editorially that "the opposition to 'the Home Rule Bill is no longer practical politics. It is time to realize that in order to concentrate on what is.'"

The Times also says that the people of Canada hesitate to believe that Home Rule for Ireland menaces the security of Great Britain and the Empire. But it is generally recognized that there is danger in the prospect of civil war.

"War in Great Britain which is the centre of the Empire, would be a calamity disastrously felt throughout the Dominion. Once let it be realized that danger of civil war is grave and instant, and the overseas people of the Empire will pronounce judgment swift and stern on those who brought us to this pass."

The plain meaning of this is that there ought to be a persistent endeavor to settle the Irish question. Imperialism is not threatened by Home Rule for Ireland. It is threatened by division in Ireland. If Irishmen, Catholic and Protestant, could agree the solution would be to let Ireland govern itself in its own way.

Lord Dunraven, a life-long student of the Irish question, said in a recent interview:—"Exclusion, whatever its character, means perpetual exclusion. It involves aggravation and perpetuation of those differences of creed and class which obsess Ireland, dislocation of trade and commerce, and banking, and business of every kind. It would embitter all relations and ruin industry." It is doubtful, indeed, if Ulster would vote for exclusion if put to the test.

Col. Sam Hughes, Canada's war lord, is authority for the statement that since confederation only \$4,900,000 has been spent in Canada on drill halls and that fifty halls costing \$2,360,000 have been built or authorized since the Borden government came into power. That is going strong.

A Salem, Mass., man was waiting for a car with his wife and when it came took her arm and escorted her to a seat. He was slightly bewildered when he sat down to find that he had helped on a stranger whom he had never seen and across the aisle, laughing at him, was his wife.

The Irish Home Rule Bill has passed its third reading and will become law automatically within a short time. The predicted outbreak in Ulster which was to follow the passage of the bill has not yet materialized.

While looking through an attic recently Wm. Fay of Clinton, Mass., found a druggist's mortar more than 175 years old. It was made of marble, has three handles and weighs nearly eight pounds.

The largest postal card ever mailed in Detroit measured 15 by 20 inches and carried 12 cents' worth of stamps. It was sent to a newly married post office employee and has on it the signature of 150 fellow employees.

Italy and Spain are the only European countries that do not pay their parliamentary representatives. England now pays \$2,000 a year. In many of the countries the stipend is so small as to be merely nominal.

Although he has plenty of space time on his hands these days, Premier Fleming is not in as great demand as a Sunday School orator as he was in former days.

The weather man seems to be trying hard to make up for the raw cold deal he gave us last winter. Such warm weather for the month of May is almost without precedent.

Clerk Wanted

WANTED—A clerk for general store. Good references. Apply in own handwriting, M. Schaffner, Blackville, N. B. June 4th.

FIGHT OVER C.N.R. DEAL

(Continued from page one.)

was taking over the Cape Breton Railway and that a survey was being made for an extension from St. Peters to Louisburg.

Premier Borden replied that he knew of no negotiations in regard to any purchase of the railway, not of any survey with a view to an extension of the line to Louisburg.

The house spent the rest of the day on the C.N.R. legislation and good progress was made with the resolution stage of the agreement.

This morning the principal subject of discussion was the clause empowering the governor in council to increase the subsidiary companies.

Hon. Dr. Fugate moved an amendment declaring that any increase in stock should be authorized only by parliament instead of by more secret process of order in council. After two hours of discussion the amendment was defeated by a vote of 64 to 29. Three members of the government side, R. B. Bennett, W. F. Nickle and W. F. McLean voted for the amendment.

On the Liberal side it was contended that if the government was sincere in its intention that dividends could only be paid on the hundred millions of authorized capital stock in its intention that dividends of the Canadian Northern Company, there was no necessity and no object in taking power to increase the capital stock of the subsidiary companies.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared that the only object in increasing the capital stock of the subsidiary companies could be for dividend-paying purposes. It was a well known trick of finance, he said, to increase capital stock when dividends increased thus removing a reason for reducing freight rates.

Premier Borden and Hon. Arthur Meighen contended that whether the capital stock of the subsidiary companies was increased or not it would make no practical difference, concerned, since all this stock would so far as the public interest was owned by the Canadian Northern system, and dividends could only be paid on the hundred millions of the capital stock of the parent company. The premier declared that under the agreement any new stock issued by the subsidiary companies could not get into the hands of the general public but must be owned and controlled by the parent company.

MAGNATES' PERSONAL ASSETS.

At the opening of the afternoon session E. M. MacDonald supported by Hon. Wm. Pugsley, charged that the government was not furnishing the house with information as to the personal assets of Mackenzie & Mann. Mr. Pugsley stated that the government knew perfectly well that if the actual financial condition of the two railway magnates were exposed it would become apparent that a crime was being committed against the country in not requiring them to stand behind the guarantee, as well as the government.

Mr. Meighen pointed out that no such information had been given the house, or obtained by the late administration when they had guaranteed the bonds of the Canadian Northern in 1911.

E. M. MacDonald asked Mr. Meighen what the government thought of R. B. Bennett's suggestion that automatic foreclosure by the dominion in case of default by the C.N.R. should be taken on the system.

Mr. Meighen replied that he did not think this suggestion was made seriously by Messrs. Pugsley or MacDonald. In his speech the other day the former had admitted a future parliament should not be bound now to take over the road.

All the clauses in the resolution were soon passed, and the schedules were then taken up and approved.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley objected to the clause by which the C.N.R. is afforded running rights over government railways. He claimed that the C.N.R. might select those portions of the government system over which they desired to run, which might prove a serious matter and proposed an amendment to the effect that the agreement should also be approved by the governor-in-council.

The prime minister said that the suggestion impressed him favorably, and promised to take it up again.

A. K. MacLean criticized the amendment, however, stating that it would give rise to local disputes.

The remaining clauses of the agreement were passed in the early part of the evening and the resolutions and agreement were reported from the committee. They will get a second reading tomorrow.

The tariff bill was next considered. A. K. MacLean of Halifax, stated that the price of nails had advanced 25 cents per keg as a result of the increased duty on wire rods. F. B. Carvell corroborated this statement.

The minister of finance in reply, said that the duty on nails had not been changed. He asked Mr. Carvell how he would explain the decrease in the price of nails during the past year of more than 25 cents per keg. The minister thought the explanation was that the building trades had been dull before and were now showing activity with a consequent increase in nail prices.

W. S. Loggie stated that the reason for the recent increase in price of nails was that the price had been raised by a nail-maker's combine. This combine had not gone to pieces.

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BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

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Balthasar H. Meyer, member of the Interstate Commerce Commission, forty-eight years old today.

Prof. Charles Alphonso Smith, noted Southern educator, fifty years old today.

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